

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Delete the second period following "ethanol" in the last paragraph on page 1 as below.

However, it would be desirable to be able to increase the productivity of these manufacturing processes, especially for very cost sensitive products such as ethanol.[[.]] In particular, it would be desirable to improve the drainage rate of acid treated plant derived material in order to maximize the soluble sugars recovered in the liquor. Further, the separated solids should be as dry as possible in order to prevent any loss of sugar, which would otherwise be used in the fermentation process. In addition, the solid by product, which contains mainly lignin can be used as a solid fuel, for instance for use in the boiler used to heat the distillation

Page 2, last paragraph, please amend as below.

Sugar in this context is taken to mean any monosaccharide or oligosaccharide or degradation product thereof which is capable of being consumed as a carbon source by fermenting microorganisms.

~~typically~~ Typically monosaccharides are ketonic (ketose) or aldehydic (aldose) derivatives of a poly-alcohol having the general structure $C_nH_{2n}O_n$ with n from 2 to 6 disaccharides such as cellobiose, maltose and sucrose may be suitable substrates but these are particularly preferred: glycoaldehyde, glyceraldehyde, dihydroxyacetone, erythrose, threose, glucose, fructose, maltose, arabinose, ribose, xylose, mannose, galactose, allose, gulose, altrose, idose, talose, ribulose, erythrulose, xylulose, psicose, sorbose and tagatose, lyxose, ribose, arabinose, ribose, arabinose, allose, mannose,

Please amend page 3 first and second paragraphs as below:

~~all-trose~~ alltrose, xylose, lyxose,[[,]] gulose, idoose, glactose, talose, gulose, galactose,[[,]]
erythro-pentulose, ~~three-pentulose~~ threo-pentulose, psicose,[[,]] sorbose, tagatose, psicose,

Solid matter means ~~particulates~~ particulates and fibres which remain undissolved under the given hydrolysis conditions and generally comprise residues of starch, cellulose, galactomanan, hemicellulose, chitin, pectins, arabinogalactans, as well as non carbohydrates such as lignin and analogous resinous materials.

Please amend page 11, first paragraph as below:

In a preferred embodiment of this invention, the residual acid as well as undesirable heavy metals – if present - may be removed by increasing the pH of the sugar liquor that results from the acid digestion process to a value of at least 10 by addition of a basic material such as sodium carbonate, then separating the liquid from the solid phase including any ~~precipated~~ precipitated metals that might have formed, by usual means such as filtration, and afterwards adjusting of the filtrate to a slightly acidic-
~~pH filtrate~~ pH filtrate to near neutrality. Desirably the pH may be adjusted to a value between 10 and 12, preferably about 11, by addition of a base, followed by titrating- to pH₄ to pH 5, preferably about pH_{4.5}.

and
about

Please amend page 15, third paragraph as below:

Following the procedure described with reference to Figures 1 to 3 after the second incubation at ~~80°C~~ 80 °C one of the plungers is removed from the syringe and as shown in Figures 4 and 5 the open end of the syringe inserted into the open top of a larger syringe 40 having a perforated base 42 for supporting a mesh 44. A receiving cylinder 46 is positioned around the lower end of syringe 40 and the assembly of syringe 40 and cylinder 46 is mounted in flask 48 having a connection 50 to a vacuum. The sample is washed with water and the filtrate 52 collecting in the receiving cylinder can be examined.